

PA FBLA PENN PAL

Winter 2005

Think About It... by Paul Blascovich, State Treasurer

As my senior year rolls on, I have found myself frequently reminiscing about the last four years. The one thing that has impacted my high school education the most has been my involvement in FBLA. As my time in this organization is beginning to come to a close, I would like to take a moment to share my experiences in the hope that others may also take advantage of what FBLA has to offer.

First, I remind all the local chapters that they are the lifeline of this great organization. It is their fundraising and service projects that make Pennsylvania FBLA's state project a success each year. I thank both

my CD East local chapter and those all around the state that have supported me and helped me as a state officer.

Next, to all those members considering becoming an officer, go for it. Becoming a state officer has been the most enjoyable part of my FBLA involvement. At the local and regional levels, you have the ability to take a leadership position in your school and community. You will learn a great deal about working with others and coordinating a chapter. At the state or even at the national level, officership offers an experience unlike any other. You will meet members from across the state and nation and learn about yourself in the process. Do not be afraid of the election process; a fear of failure will get you nowhere. Rather, if you have the dedication and organization that becoming an offi-



cer requires, give it a shot and run for office.

Finally, I am issuing one final push for our state project. Special Olympics of Pennsylvania is an incredible organization that depends on our support to continue to provide services for its athletes. Our efforts thus far are well on their way to our \$95,000 goal; however, there is much work to do. I urge all local chapters to do their best to increase their efforts for this worthwhile cause. It will take hard work from across the state for us to reach this goal, but I know that together we can do it.

Pennsylvania FBLA, thank you again for all that you have provided me. I have enough positive memories to last me a lifetime. To the other seniors, I hope that you take as much away from this as I have; to underclassmen, I ask you to take full advantage of the opportunities afforded you. Keep up the great work and good luck with all your endeavors.

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Bermudian Springs Has Busy Holiday



R-L: J. Northcraft, T. Myers, L. Moore, K. Blust, H. Stockham, B. Coons, and J. Myers pose at Niagara falls before the NFLC.

FBLA has traditionally been very active with community service around the holiday season, and this year was no different. After sending seven members and two advisers to the NFLC in Buffalo, the chapter gained ideas to add to its traditional projects as well as a new idea for service and a fundraiser.

As in the past, the club asked our kindergarten students to write letters to Santa. Then, FBLA members volunteered to respond to them in another

letter. Members did not necessarily promise them anything, but did ask the children about if they were a good boy or girl and encouraged them to do so.

Another project that Bermudian once again took part in was wrapping presents for the United Cerebral Palsy's booth in the North Hanover Mall. Several members volunteered their time on two different nights to help the UCP spread Christmas cheer. A new idea for holiday service

this year came through a request from the East Berlin Lions Club. Bermudian was asked to assist in selling Christmas trees at its stand outside of the local Cashman's Hardware Store. Finally, the Bermudian Springs FBLA has successfully reached its goal of raising \$500 for the PA FBLA state project through a lollipop sale held in early December. Each member was asked to sell two bags and 50% profit was made to be donated to the Special Olympics.



Bermudian student, Laura Moore, wraps a gift at the UCP booth.

Cocalico HS Takes a Step in the Right Direction

The Cocalico High School FBLA has an "International" Community Service Project in full swing. This project was the brainchild of senior FBLA member, Kyle Bowers, who had a vision of helping people in some way, after experiencing the loss of several loved ones last year.

As the leader of this project, he started "STEP" on a small scale. He organized a collection of shoes for people from third-world countries who really needed help. "We have so much here in the USA, and we sometimes forget that other parts of the world have millions of poor and needy people.

With the help of several Cocalico FBLA friends, he set his goal at 1,000 pairs of shoes. He got support from a few churches and families of students at school in the beginning.

Then a funny thing happened—his idea caught on and everybody discovered that they had used and new shoes, lying around the house, that were not serving any purpose. Churches, neighboring high schools, and businesses got word of this project by word of mouth--from Kyle and other FBLA members. Shoes, by the bagfuls, began arriving at Kyle's home and at school. Drop-

off points have been set up around the county. Soon the project gained television coverage from two area channels, newspaper coverage, and even a contact from the Oprah Show. There are times Kyle can't even sleep in his room, due to the number of shoes stacked there. Periodically, a group of students spend several hours packing boxes and counting shoes. The family garage was the first storage area, but now the project has outgrown that and a storage unit was donated to "STEP" from a local businessperson. That bin is filling quickly. Because this project has gained so much momentum, a new goal has been set—10,000 pairs of shoes. This project will continue to evolve, much like the conditions and situations fac-

ing many poverty stricken areas in the world.

Currently, the need in the tsunami area is medicine and money—not shoes. We have learned, however, there is a serious need for shoes in the Ukraine. We are currently working with the Mennonite Central Committee and we are hoping for their support in this endeavor. The big issue is transportation and distribution. It's time for serious problem solving.

This is the time "entrepreneurial skills" come in handy. Kyle Bowers and the Cocalico FBLA will keep you posted.

Hershey HS

The Hershey High School FBLA has been busy raising money for Special Olympics over the past few months. Some of the fundraisers that have been successful this year have been Casual for a Cause for teachers before Christmas and Thanksgiving and Hat Days for the students. We have already met the \$700 goal that was pledged for this school year.

Our newest project, along with volunteering at the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, is our Valentines DataMatch. Because of the recent Tsunami, the club has decided to donate the profits from this Valentine fundraiser to the American Red Cross to support the victim's relief fund.

West Allegheny HS

The West Allegheny chapter of FBLA is already off to a great start for the 2004-2005 school year. Of our twenty seven members, four of the members are officers; President Maranda Wodzinski, Vice-President Ariana Carrington, Secretary Jamie Schumacher, Treasurer Evan Corcoran, Historian Adriane McGraw, and Reporter Dan Piganell. All of the members will be, and have been participating in community service events. During the week of Halloween, the members assisted in selling Halloween bake goods in order to help fundraise for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Also, they participated in a fundraiser to help sponsor FBLA field trips and expenses by selling Christmas oriented products in December. In order to fundraise for the Special Olympics organization, the members plan to have a bake sale. They plan to have this around Valentine's Day, in which FBLA member and other students will donate bake goods. Not only will the students of West Allegheny have some Valentine treats, they will be aiding the state-wide fundraiser for Special Olympics. Also, the members are going to create cards for troops overseas to help ease the homesickness and also to show the troops how much people care about them. All of the members are excited to participate in the RLC on January 21, and are working with the advisors, Mr. Catrain and Mrs. Monozo, to prepare for their competitions.

Garnet Valley FBLA's Movie House and Hearts for Animals Charity Drive

On December 11, 2004, Garnet Valley FBLA hosted a movie house in the high school auditorium. The movie house consisted of two movies, "Elf" and "The Santa Clause." Attendees had been asked to pay a \$2.00 fee to cover costs and earn money for the Special Olympics.

While the movies were playing, a concession stand was also set up outside for patrons of the movie. The rights for showing the movie were obtained through Criterion Pictures. This experience gave FBLA members who participated the ability to set up and run a concession stand, to understand product markups, and to research copyright laws. The movie house was successful, but not as much as anticipated. The FBLA members have decided give it another go. Therefore, in February GV FBLA is running another movie house aimed at its middle school population.

Ann Morris, a representative of Delaware County ASPCA will be coming to our January meeting to share information about non-profit businesses as well as to kick off our February charity drive. Garnet Valley FBLA will be sponsoring a "Hearts for Animals" charity drive to benefit the Dela-

ware County ASPCA. All members will be given a "wish list" of items. Members will then be asked to contribute items from the "wish list" to the charity drive.

Garnet Valley FBLA has a lot on its plate, but members are ready to go. GV FBLA looks forward to another successful year of activities, competitions, and fundraising!

*Breeze
through the
Penn Pal —
schools speak
out!*



GV students getting ready for the holiday season.

Greenwood HS Busy During Holidays



Since our last letter, the Greenwood School District FBLA has been gathering information to buy a new scoreboard for soccer/field hockey field. in doing so we have consulted Greenwood's Booster Club about the project and asked if they would also like to be a part of it. Just this past week we had 27 people compete in the regional

competition. 25 out of those 27 placed fifth place or higher, and 17 people placed to participate in states, which will be held in April.

For Christmas this year the FBLA members brought in food items to donate three food baskets to local families. in December, Millers-town held an event called

"Christmas In The Square" which we took part in. Greenwood FBLA had a stand selling hot dogs and hot chocolate.

Cedar Crest FBLA

The fall semester was an extremely fruitful one for Cedar Crest FBLA. The chapter hosted their most successful blood drive and food drive ever, collecting 110 units of blood for the Red Cross and 911 lbs. of food and toiletries for Lebanon County Christian Ministries.

In December the club participated in an "adopt a family" program, purchasing Christmas gifts for a needy brother and sister in the area.

The chapter placed 9th in the state at the SLW Charity Walk and pledged to donate \$1,500 to the state project, Special Olympics. To help meet this goal, the chapter is currently

collecting compatibility surveys from students in the school. The results will be sold for \$3 each in February with 100% of the proceeds benefiting Special Olympics.



Pine Grove Has a Busy Winter Schedule

The Pine Grove Area FBLA has had quite a busy schedule, with more activities being added all the time. Right before Christmas we made a trip to our local retirement home to brighten up the residents' holiday season with some Bingo and conversation. Not too long after that, it was time for our members to relax and enjoy themselves at our annual Christ-

mas party, but it was soon time to get back to business.

We have several more community service and fundraising projects underway. Our faculty recently purchased buttons to participate in a "Casual for a Cause Day" and, with many willing teachers, it was once again a success. We are also in the process of volunteering at a Special Olympics event. It would be very rewarding for our members to not only raise money for the cause, but to

see the joyous result firsthand. One fundraising project being planned is a "Kiss the Pig Contest." Several faculty members have volunteered themselves and will have their pictures placed on separate coffee cans. The cans will be set in various locations throughout the school and students can put money into the can of the teacher they would like to see "kiss the pig." At our high school's annual pep rally at the end of January, the teacher with the

most money in their can will place a big smackeroo on a FBLA member's pet potbelly. Besides providing the entire school with hilarious entertainment, the message of Special Olympics is spread and funds are raised.

In addition to our fundraising projects, the entire chapter is preparing for the Regional Leadership Competition. With almost 65 hardworking members signed up for events, this year promises a lot of success once again at the RLC for Pine Grove FBLA.

South Side HS Takes the RLC by Storm

It gives us great pleasure to inform you that 41 of the 50 South Side FBLA members who competed at the Regional Leadership Conference held January 6, 2005 at Butler Community College were winners. Sixteen high schools were in competition and South Side was selected as the Most Outstanding Chapter of

You're #1



the sixteen. The 33 winners who are eligible to com-

pete at the 2005 FBLA State Conference April 13-15 at Seven Springs are as follows:
First-Place Winners
 Computer Concepts – Wes Radike; FBLA Principles & Procedures – Jacob Barker; International Business– Lynn Elliott; Network Design – Team of Faith Bazley, Shaun Finney, Ryan Gibbons
 Networking Concepts – Matt Dawson; Parliamentary Procedure – Team of Amanda Durban, Holly Everetts, Sarah Metz, Shari Radike and Alicia Tonks; Word Processing I – Emily Peel; Word Processing II – Tim Ponticel

Second-Place Winners
 Computer Applications – Kayla Haramic;
 Entrepreneurship – Team of David DuVall, Robert Rees, John Wilson; FBLA Principles & Procedures – Jessica Glaser
 Introduction to Business Communication – Andrea Kutsenkow
 Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure – Doug Rees
 Word Processing I – Nicole Bobchak;
 Word Processing II – Susan Waxler
Third-Place Winners
 Computer Applications – Samuel Sadowski; Computer

Concepts – Thomas Price; FBLA Principles & Procedures – Krystal Reed; Word Processing I – Kacy McCoy;
Fourth-Place Winners
 Business Communication – Kim Stiteler; C++ – Matt Cooper; Intro. to Business Communication – Betsy Stiger
Fifth-Place Winners
 Accounting I – Rachael Neal; Business Calculations – Kyle Gilbreath

Sarah Shively will also be honored at the SLC for serving as the 2004-2005 Region 13 Secretary.

Central Columbia and Gertrude Hawk a proven success

Central Columbia FBLA has once again had an exciting and productive year. Our members continue to take the road to their success.

Last November we sold Gertrude Hawk candy to raise money for our chapter and the Special Olympics. Gertrude Hawk is a new national sponsor for FBLA and we had a great experience working with them. The sale was highly successful and our customers were happy that they got their candy just in time for Christmas! We also had the opportunity to take a tour of the Gertrude Hawk plant in Dunmore, PA, and sampled some of their tasty treats.

Over the last two months, we have also given service to the Special Olympics. Our members showed the athletes how to play a modified form of floor hockey, and soon we will be teaching them how to play basketball at the Bloomsburg Memorial School every Wednesday evening. This has been one of the most rewarding activities that our chapter has ever participated in.

Between fundraising and donating hours of service, our chapter competed at the Region 7 RLC. Three of our members were elected region officers. Our chapter will be sending approximately 27 members to compete at the SLC. We hope to continue our success at the SLC.



OFFICERS SPEAK OUT

Special Olympics Overview by Laura Barrett, EDVP

“Special Olympics is founded on the belief that people with intellectual disabilities can, with proper instruction and encouragement, learn, enjoy and benefit from participation in individual and team sports.” The Special Olympics gives the intellectually disabled opportunities similar to those that you and I have. They are given the chance to get physically fit, make friends with fellow competitors, and compete in athletic events. It also helps them realize their full potential. The Special Olympics has an Athlete Oath that states “Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in

the attempt.” This oath encourages the athletes to try their hardest, while not feeling they have failed when they don’t come in first. The goal of the Special Olympics is to help the intellectually disabled enter a larger society where they are accepted and viewed as productive citizens.

Not only does the Special Olympics benefit the intellectually disabled, it also helps children, teens, and adults give back to their community and feel good about themselves. The Special Olympics provides its volunteers with the immediate satisfaction that what they have done counts. Not only does the Special Olympics experience

empower its athletes, the volunteers get as much, if not more, out of the experience. The satisfaction of what you have done often comes as a smile from an athlete. There are a variety of jobs for volunteers to do. From being an athlete escort to timing to being an award presenter, the volunteering opportunities are extremely rewarding. If you would like to become a volunteer at an event or competition please visit: <http://www.specialolympicspa.org/> under Get Involved.

As of January 7th we have raised 30% of our \$95,000 goal, but with only three months left we have a way to go. If you need any fundraising ideas please refer to the Great Ways to Fundraise plan of work for ideas.

Reflection by Brandon Null, CDVP

our friendships will carry on for all of time.

When looking back on what Pennsylvania FBLA has done, I am continually amazed. Together, we have created one of the most powerful and productive student-run organizations in the country, with nearly a quarter of a million members world-wide.

What exactly does the term *Future Business Leaders of America* mean to you? To me, it is so much more than what appears on the surface. Look at what the members of Pennsylvania have done the past several years. High school students from across the state have come together to raise nearly \$100,000 each year for truly remarkable causes. This year it’s the Special Olympics; in previous years we have had the American Lung Association, Habitat for Humanity, and the Juvenile Diabetes

Foundation. Yes, we are the future leaders of America, but we can also be leaders today.

When I joined FBLA as a freshman, I had no idea what to expect. My high school has numerous student organizations, but FBLA is in a category of its own. No other organization can compare to the dedication of our diligently working members and the ongoing support of our advisors.

As a state officer, I was given the opportunity of a lifetime. Traveling across the country as an ambassador for Pennsylvania while meeting thousands of other excited members, I was afforded the opportunity to impact on the lives of others and, in turn, they changed my life. I truly appreciate the support everyone gave me in my ventures.

I cannot stress enough the importance of support from

your advisor, parents, friends, and fellow members throughout your campaign and term in office. Serving as an officer at any level is quite a responsibility. I am confident that I have helped make a difference in the lives of others by leading them on the road to their personal success.

If you only take one thing out of this, I hope it’s the realization that it only takes one person to make an impact on the future of America; that one person can be you!

Thank you, the members and advisors of FBLA, for your faith and endless support in me. You have given me a chance to reach my personal best while serving others and leading Pennsylvania across the finish line, hand in hand.

As the year goes by, the realization that my time in office is coming to an end becomes more and more evident. The first thing I think of is the lifelong bonds I have created with eight extraordinary individuals that I have come to know so well over the past ten months. Each one of my fellow officers has given me the kind of friendship that one can only dream of. I couldn’t ask for more from any of them. Meeting each of them was my most rewarding experience! Parting from the bonds we have created will bring me great sadness, but I know in my heart that

Pleasant Valley has a successful RLC!

On Thursday, January 13, 2005, 63 members from Pleasant Valley High School traveled to Stroudsburg High School to participate in the Region 21 Leadership Conference. During Opening Session, several members from Pleasant Valley were awarded regional Membership Awards for recruiting new members. Also, PV members achieved several Community Service Awards, a new addition to the regional awards in Region 21 this year. Pleasant Valley ran four candidates for regional office: Darlene Smith for treasurer, Bobby Trivett for secretary, Harry Wolverton for vice president, and Ryan Smiley for president. Amber Heckman and Alesha Polles served as voting delegates to represent PV. During the dinner dance following testing, the candidates from PV and other schools delivered their speeches to 18 voting delegates. Darlene Smith was elected Region 21 Treasurer. At Closing Session that night, she was inducted by the former treasurer, her brother Adam Smith, and the competitive event awards were presented. Pleasant Valley was pleased to have 38 members qualify for the State Leadership Conference in April; among those were first-place finishers in Business Law, C++, Desktop Publishing, FBLA Principles and Procedures, Job Interview, Network Concepts, and other events. Other members, pending acceptance in Multimedia Presentation and Website Design, may also qualify to attend the SLC. Congratulations to Pleasant Valley's top finishers and good luck at the SLC!



PV members at the Region 21 RLC

Peters Township Works Hard for SOPA

The Pennsylvania FBLA is supporting Special Olympics this year as a state project. The motto is, "Crossing the Finish Line . . . Hand in Hand". Peters Township FBLA has pledged to raise \$1500.00 for this worthy cause. So far, over \$1,036 has been raised. In order to meet this deadline, several fundraisers have been completed. This year, three fundraisers are planned, two have already been completed, and the third is scheduled for later this year.

Near the end of October, the teachers at Peters Township High School took place in 'Teacher Costume Madness'. The teachers donned costumes and students donated money to the teachers with the best costumes. The next fundraiser that took place was in December, 'Candy Grams'. Students bought candy canes to send to their friends with a note attached. Both of these activities were highly successful, and even more fundraisers are planned for the future. In February, there is going to be a

We're Busy at James M. Coughlin

The Coughlin FBLA has been very busy over the past two months. With such a large turnout of members, our club has been working together towards a great year.

Coughlin's FBLA officers Melissa Lamb, Jason Woloski, Tara Werner, and Jen Elward, attended the State Leadership Workshop at Penn State from October 31 to November 1. At the workshop, our officers were provided with leadership training and were helped with preparing programs for the year. They had a chance to attend sessions on chapter operation, parliamentary procedure, fund-raising, the state project, regional activities, competitive events, and career information. The members from our school who attended had a great time and were able to learn a lot about FBLA.

Coughlin membership also attended the Regional Leadership Workshop for Region 16, held at Bishop O'Reilly High School on November 17, 2004. There, Coughlin presented a workshop on some of the competitive events. At this workshop, members had an opportunity to share ideas concerning FBLA activities. They also had a chance to listen to some very helpful speeches and discuss chapter activities that will be held during the year.

By going to these workshops, the Coughlin FBLA gained a lot of experience to prepare them for the Regional Leadership Conference to be held on February 4 at Dallas High School. Most of the students have already signed up for their events and they are now studying to prepare for the competition. Everybody is looking forward to this conference and we hope to have many of our members achieve great success in their events. Good luck to everyone and see you at the RLC!

South Western hosts Basket Bingo

With the New Year comes a great set of challenges for South Western FBLA. But rested and restored over the holiday break, our chapter's members are up to the challenge. As the Regional Leadership Conference at Central Penn College is just around the corner, many students have been spending their free time studying in hopes of reaching the state level. February marks the month of our Second Annual Basket Bingo, which is to be

held in the high school cafeteria on February 11, 2005. Our chapter is still making last minute preparations, as donations have not been what we had hoped. Nevertheless, the event is sure to be a success and to net a large profit for the Special Olympics of Pennsylvania.



New Oxford Spreads Christmas Cheer



FBLA has gotten a great start on the New Year. So far we have sold subs and candy from a brochure, and everybody knows FBLA does Santa letters every year. This year Katie Jarvis picked them up from NOE and CTE on Dec. 3rd, 6th, 8th and 10th. As always, we have fun writing back to the elementary students. We had a lot of questions about the reindeer

and Mrs. Claus. We didn't get as many letters from the students as we have in the past. We only had a week or two to get them back to the elementary students because we had to get them back before Christmas break. The new members felt a little weird doing them at first but when they started getting the hang of it, they started to like it.

PA FBLA
53rd State Leadership Conference
April 13-15, 2005
Seven Springs



SHIPPENSBURG FBLA IS GOING STRONG!

Shippensburg FBLA has been extremely busy throughout the last several weeks conducting fundraisers, racking up community service hours, and competing at the Region 26 Leadership Conference.

Our latest fundraiser was called the "Silver Mile." Coffee cans were placed in all homerooms in the senior high school for one month. Students were encouraged to put their "extra change" in the coffee cans. After one month, the homeroom that collected the most money was awarded

with a homeroom breakfast party on the day before Christmas vacation. Second- and third-place winners were given donuts.

In December, all chapter members performed community service hours at the new Wal-Mart in Shippensburg ringing the Salvation Kettle bells. FBLA rang the bell from 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 18. This was done as a community service activity. On Monday, January 10, 2005, the Shippensburg Area High School Future Business Leaders

of America attended the Region 26 Leadership Conference at Central Penn College. They left the conference with three state qualifiers. Magen Hutson placed first in International Business, Munira Shamshudin placed second in Business Communications, and Jamie Oberholzer placed third in Accounting I. Also, Jamie Oberholzer was elected Region 26 President for the 2005-06 year.



Shippensburg at Region 26 RLC

Shippensburg homeroom celebrates breakfast party



**Spring edition of Penn Pal deadline:
March 15, 2005**

Chestnut Ridge FBLA Reaches Out to the Community

The Chestnut Ridge Chapter was busy all December, especially with planning and implementing their "Finding the Keys to Success" night. Because Bedford County's unemployment rate soared to 10.6% in October, the officers and chairpersons wanted to reach out to the community and helped the people who had been laid off at several of the county's companies. Members donated door prizes and refreshments for the December 9th program

and filled out questionnaires on unemployment in the area and country. On December 9, chairpersons, Angie Smith, CR FBLA secretary, and Levi Cromer, PA FBLA State Parliamentarian, were interviewed by Channel 10 WTAJ and Channel 6 WJAC television stations about the program that would be conducted that night.

They began the event by welcoming the 36 participants, and introduced the guest speakers for the night. Marsha Kemp from Careerlink and Wayne Blue from the Bedford County Techni-

cal Center spoke on the opportunities for retraining and filing for unemployment. After the speakers finished, Levi dismissed the assembly to the first workshop on résumé writing presented by Glenda Ellis from Careerlink. The participants had the opportunity to type a résumé in the computer lab. The next workshop was presented by Richard McConnell from Kennametal Corporation. He had a fun and interesting workshop on acing an interview. He even wore a blinking nose, elf's hat, and Christmas lights tie to show what you should

NOT wear to an interview, which got quite a few laughs from the audience. The last workshop was about what an employer expects from an employee presented by Glenda Ellis, and she highlighted the points of being a good and productive employee. To finish off the evening, everyone convened in the large instruction room for closing remarks and door prizes.



Hard work at HIT at Canevin

The Bishop Canevin Chapter continues the hard work. Before Christmas break, we held a Dodge ball Tournament in order to raise money. It turned out to be a complete hit! We had many teams, including all boys, all girls, and co-ed. Lots of students participated, everyone had tons of fun, and we were able to earn a lot of money in doing so. Hopefully, we can think of something else just as creative to involve a lot of

people and raise money in an enjoyable way. We are doing lots of community service as well. Jim Rosati, our Community Service Director, is beginning to collect lists from our members. These lists will include the amount of service hours of each of the FBLA students.

Also, the Bishop Canevin FBLA students are preparing for our FBLA tests for this year. The FBLA Regional Competition will be

held here at Bishop Canevin, as it has been in the previous years. We have many students participating this year, and hopefully everything will run smoothly as it has in the past. Mr. James O'Connell, the best moderator in the world, will be heading up the Competition again. With the help of all the participating schools in the Western District, this year's Regional Competition should be great!

Stroudsburg High School Future Business Leaders of America Sets High Goals



Stroudsburg High FBLA members have kept the momentum going by trying something new- a basket auction. Members put together six different baskets with varying themes, and tickets were sold during all four high school lunches. Baskets were auctioned off during the Turkey Day pep rally at the end of the week.

While all of this was going on, members were busy selling Christmas wreaths. Expectations were exceeded with almost 300 sold.

The most popular FBLA event was the Annual Breakfast with

Santa, held on Sat., December 11. Members worked hard to prepare and advertise for this event. Over 350 people attended, making it one of the most successful Breakfasts with Santa in years.

Gift Wrapping at Stroud Mall was next on the list of activities on December 17, 18, & 19. All proceeds will again be donated to PA Special Olympics.

Finally, on January 13, Stroudsburg played host to the Region 21 Leadership Conference. Almost 350 students from 9 schools in the area attended to compete in 35 different events. This year's Region 21 President

and Secretary, Cristin Sanders and Lawrence Thompson helped organize and implement this large undertaking. Stroudsburg FBLA had 56 winners who will advance to the State Level in April for a 3-day State Leadership Conference. Due to the success of so many members, the Stroudsburg Chapter earned the Region 21 Overall Champions trophy.



JERSEY SHORE KICKS OFF 2005 WITH A BANG

Jersey Shore Senior High FBLA kicked off 2005 with a bang. Not only are thirty-six of our members advancing to the State Leadership Conference (SLC) at Seven Springs, but we have three people that already qualified for the National Leadership Conference (NLC) held in Orlando, Florida. How is this possible? The Jersey Shore Chapter had a Virtual Business Challenge Team.

The FBLA Virtual Business Challenge is an official FBLA competitive event. A team must use vis-

ual simulation software version of the very popular Virtual Business – Management, which was created by Knowledge Matters, Inc. There are two challenges via the internet that are both qualifying rounds for the NLC. The top ten nationally ranked teams from each challenge will qualify to compete at the NLC through a “live” competition. In the two challenges, the registered teams will be scored on the net profit of the business that they created.

The Jersey Shore Senior High FBLA Chapter is so proud of and ecstatic for

our very own 2004-2005 FBLA Virtual Business Challenge Team, “Under Construction”. The three members advancing to the National Leadership Conference in June are Miranda Charles, Nathan Welshans, and Curtis Adams. We want to wish them, and also those attending the State Leadership Conference in April, the best of luck. We are positive that they will represent the Jersey Shore FBLA Chapter very well.



PA FBLA STATE PROJECT DONATIONS STILL BEING ACCEPTED!

Send your donations to PA FBLA State Treasurer, Paul Blascovich
Help us reach our goal of \$95,000!



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Adversity by Eric Stephenson, First Vice President

Everyone knows how great this organization is. Our state came away with more awards than any other at the National Conference last year. Year after year we raise thousands of dollars and volunteer thousands of hours for our community and country. Our members will take the infinite life long lessons on etiquette, respect, and, of course, business, with them as they evolve into the future generation of our world.

To be honest, I didn't know or even care about any of this when I joined the organization. My friend told me that if I joined I would be able to get out of school, travel, and meet other people! They also told me that the number of smart, beautiful young ladies outnumbered the guys! This was the driving force that was behind my decision to join FBLA. But since that day, this club has changed me from being a boy who's life revolved around girls, getting out of school, and having fun, to a more mature and respectable young man who is concentrated on his future and family. Don't get me wrong, I still love to have a good time, and I think if you work hard you should play hard.

In the beginning of last summer, I felt as if everything was going my way. I was serving as PA FBLA's First Vice President, I got to travel to Denver, CO, my adviser was fantastic and we had a lot of great ideas for the upcoming year. Away from FBLA, I got a raise at my job, traveled to San Diego, Los Angeles,

and spent an amazing two weeks back in Jersey with my family and best friend. Finally, I knew where I was going to college, had scholarships there, and was already working hard with basketball and track. Everything started to get to my head, and I thought I was invincible- nothing could go wrong.

Out of nowhere, my adviser found another job and left our school. Our local chapter was left with no adviser, and we literally had to beg the principal not to shut us down. On top of being on the verge of having to resign from my position, we found out that we were over \$1,000 in debt, and we're not really sure how to this day it happened. We begged the faculty members at our school to help out in whatever way they could. We finally got three stand-in advisers who would do a little bit here and there. We couldn't go to the NFLC this year, and our membership dropped by almost 50%. Besides FBLA, our basketball team had worked extremely hard on the off season, but when the season came we found ourselves 0 and 15 (zero wins and 15 losses). Soon, I found myself overwhelmed with school work, trying to hold our local chapter together, studying for Regional competition, meeting my state officer responsibilities, basketball six days a week, working when I could, my DECA project, and indoor track.

Things are gradually starting to turn around, and I have to admit that I have

grown so much since last April. Without the guidance of PA FBLA's Board of Directors and the other state officers, I would never have been able to get through the adversity that I was up against. I have to give credit to my three step-in advisers as well. They stepped up when others wouldn't and believed in what this organization means to me and the members involved. Throughout it all, I've learned some of life's most important lessons: humility, responsibility, hard work, persistence, and how to ask for help. They say that a smart man learns from his mistakes, but a wise man learns from the mistakes of others. If you are a senior or even an underclassman, please understand that the older generation (no disrespect intended) think back and wish to be in our shoes. The problem that myself and a lot of people have is that we are constantly looking forward instead of enjoying the time we have now as young adults. Don't spread yourself too thin that you become overwhelmed; but then again, push yourself to the limits and keep taking advantage of the opportunities around you. Work for your future, live in the present, and learn from your past. I think Byron Garrett said it best: "You have to be willing to do today what others won't do, to have tomorrow what others never will." In the end, it will be how you respond to adversity that will define your true character.

My Story by Megan Laskowski, State Secretary

Four-year FBLA members, you stand where I stand. Three-year members, there is still another year ahead. Two-year members, there is a year behind you. Finally, one-year members, where do you begin?

FBLA has many areas for your participation. Finding your niche is simply a matter of research and boldness. Are you a competitor? volunteer? standout leader?

FBLA allows members, who excel in a broad range of business qualities, the chance to weigh their skills against other members. This may result in receiving awards, scholarships, and knowledge that cannot be learned in any normal classroom setting.

Stepping even further outside the classroom door is the opportunity to commit to community service. Each year, whether on a state or national level, the challenge to give your personal time to others is provided toward FBLA members.

The chance of a lifetime exists with the opportunity to step up to the "officer plate." In that position, you can learn skills in communication, time management, and so much more.

To illustrate on a more personal level just what a niche in FBLA may be like, here's my story.

As a freshman, taking the advice of a wise sister, I joined FBLA. Little did I know just how large of an effect it would have on my high school career. After jumping in the boat, I looked into a few of the opportunities of being a member. I decided what I would like to try and went to my adviser saying, "If you're looking for someone who can speak, I can do it!" It was a little bold, but proved well worth it. I competed in Public Speaking I and didn't stop on the regional level or the state level. I went all the way to Nashville, Tennessee, where I placed second. I found that my niche was speaking, and I could easily get plenty of opportunity to do that in FBLA.

Over the years I have continued to compete. As a sophomore, I decided to run for Regional office. I enjoyed the position so much, that as a junior I ran for state office. Since that time, I have not looked back. I have had the most valuable, enjoyable experience as a competitor, volunteer, and officer. What's your niche?

Work as an Officer by Kaiting Chen, WDVP

It is January, and I have been the Western District Vice President of PA FBLA for nine months now. From what I have seen thus far, this has been a most unique experience. From the first day, and I am sure, to the last, this will always be a memorable time.

My first big event was a meeting in June, where we set out plans for the year. This meeting was exhaustive, but absolutely necessary, as it helped us to create a road map. This would be the scheme that we would follow until we left office.

The National Leadership Conference in Denver

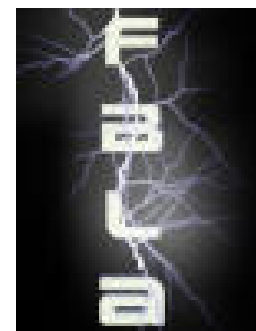
was, to say the least, grand. Spending a week by myself in an unfamiliar environment has sharpened many of my skills. The workshops presented there are of the best quality that I have seen, and the competition is fierce.

Being an officer has brought some rare and unusually, but equally appealing, opportunities to me. It has shown me many things that I would never have seen on my own. For anyone else who is interested in becoming a state officer, I have one more reflection to share.

There is always much work involved in this office. Often times, articles

and other publications must be written, sometimes on short notice, but usually not. We write speeches on the eve of conferences and workshops. Letters, and more. Sometimes these things are interesting, inspiring, and altogether enjoyable. Sometimes they aren't.

Regardless, all of these tasks must be done, and in the end, they always prove to be of great value. They can change society, change views, but most of the time, they change people. They are the foundations of FBLA, they are what make this organization.



“You qualified for the State Leadership Conference . . . Now What?”

by Raul Patel, State President

The State Leadership Conference is rapidly approaching. A number of Regional Leadership Conferences are already completed. It is time to take into consideration exactly what you want your SLC experience to include.

Of course, competitive events are a big part of the SLC. Some time should be budgeted to continue preparing for your event. Organizing study sessions, reviewing specialty websites, and drilling and reinforcing your specialty area will surely pay off when event time rolls around.

Just don't forget that in addition to individual events, there are numerous chapter awards available for fundraising for our state project “PA Special Olympics.” Remember the state goal is \$95,000. Even though we had a tremendous jump start to our state fundraising at the SLW, so many national and international disasters have occurred recently that money might be going in many different directions, depending on the initiatives your chapter might choose.

Membership awards are available for a variety of reasons—market share, largest increases in membership, largest chapter membership, etc.

One of the biggest chapter awards is the **William Selden Outstanding Chapter Award**. This award must be postmarked by March 1. Fundamentally, chapters keep track of their activities because there are various categories in which chapters can earn points. Documentation and recordkeeping play an important part in this competition. Basically speaking,

the team with the most points wins. Remember, 1st through 10th place will receive plaques on stage, but all chapters who submit a criteria become **Gold Seal Chapters**.

We all know how hard our advisers work for us. Don't forget about them! Download and fill out the **Outstanding Adviser Criteria**.

Don't forget to submit a **Who's Who Award** for the outstanding student in your chapter. He/she just may place and win a scholarship of \$500, \$1000, or \$1500! There are awards that any member can receive.

If you have recruited two or more members, submit the paperwork for **“Double or Nothing.”** If you are one of the top ten recruiters in the state, you will win an award on stage. The same award holds true for **Professional Division Membership Award**.

The “Big 33” Club is an award that is still within your reach—PA FBLA is striving to collectively log 38,000 hours of community service hours. Have each member fill out his/her community service activities and submit to help the cause. Individuals will also be recognized for the ten highest totals.

The Keystone Leadership Award is for those members who have chosen to go above and beyond the typical members contributions. Check out the criteria on the PA FBLA website and see if you qualify.

Don't forget about the deadlines for submitting documents for these awards:

- Outstanding Adviser—must be postmarked February 20, 2005.
- Keystone Leadership Award—must be postmarked February 28, 2005. Double or Nothing, Professional Division, Big 33, Outstanding Chapter, and Who's—must be postmarked March 1, 2005.

I wish all competitors and attendees of the 2005 State Leadership Conference the very best of luck. Remember to stay focused and prepare your very best for any competition with which you may have qualified. Continue collecting documents, for the additional individual and chapter awards, over the next few months. Look ahead to our journey to Seven Springs with excitement and optimism. The conference should be an unforgettable experience!! I hope to see you there!

